



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

## *Department of Emergency Management*

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**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE**  
**7401 Timberlake Road**  
**Lynchburg, VA 24502**  
**FEMA-1458-DR-VA**  
**Commonwealth Situation Report #15**  
**Wednesday, April 16, 2003**

**1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:**

**12 Noon Tuesday, April 15, 2003, through 12 Noon, Wednesday, April 16, 2003. (*New Information in bold italics.*)**

**2. SITUATION:**

A major winter storm struck Virginia beginning February 15 causing major flooding in Southwest Virginia and significant ice and snowfall in the Shenandoah Valley and areas of Northern Virginia. The weather pattern continued to bring warmer temperatures, melting snow/ice and more heavy rainfall, which combined to cause more local flooding.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency on February 16, 2003, to speed state agency assistance and resources to localities in need. The counties of Accomack, Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Essex, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester declared emergencies.

The Governor requested the federal Public Assistance program (PA) on February 28 for snow and/or flooding for the following localities: the counties of Albemarle, Arlington, Bland, Buchanan, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Dickenson, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Grayson, Greene, Highland, Lee, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Norton, Richmond, Salem and Winchester.

The Governor requested the federal Individual Assistance program (IA) on March 4 for these winter storm events in the counties of Augusta, Buchanan, Dickenson, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison,

Montgomery, Prince William, Roanoke including the Town of Vinton, Russell, Shenandoah, Tazewell, Warren, Wise and Wythe and the cities of Norton, Roanoke, Salem and Winchester.

A Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1458-DR-VA) was declared on March 27, 2003. The counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell and Wise and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem were designated for Individual Assistance (IA). Public Assistance (PA) is available for the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Orange and Rappahannock and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Winchester. All jurisdictions in the state are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). A Disaster Field Office was opened in Lynchburg on March 31, 2003. The hours of operation are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and closed Saturdays and Sundays. The DFO telephone number is 434-832-8440 and the fax number is 434-832-8544. ***The Department of Homeland Security threat level has been reduced to elevated ( yellow).***

The Virginia Farm Service Agency (FSA) has made emergency (EM) physical loss loans available to 10 Virginia counties due to blizzard damages that occurred from Feb.15-Feb.18, 2003. Those counties are Amelia, Augusta, Culpeper, Fauquier, Highland, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Rockingham and Shenandoah. In addition to the above counties, 25 other Virginia counties/cities were named as contiguous counties/cities where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical loss loan assistance. Those Virginia counties/cities are Albemarle, Bath, Chesterfield, Clarke, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fairfax, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg City, Loudoun, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Rockbridge, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Staunton City, Warren, and Waynesboro City. These loans to Virginia counties/cities may be made available to applicants with a qualifying physical loss in the named counties/cities effective 3/18/03 through 11/18/03.

### **3. WEATHER**

***Today. Mostly sunny and warm. Highs 80 to 85. West winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight. Partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers after midnight. Lows 50 to 55. Southwest winds 10 mph becoming east. Chance of rain 20 percent. Thursday. Mostly cloudy with a chance of morning shower. Then a chance of light rain in the afternoon. Cooler with highs near 60. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent.***

### **4. CURRENT STATE PRIORITIES:**

- A. Implement strategies to distribute information to affected areas.
- B. Coordinate with FEMA for DRC locations.
- C. Encourage participation in FEMA sponsored training classes for DFO staff.
- D. Implement Public Assistance strategies.
- E. Obtain state sum-sufficient funding for disaster.
- F. Manage expectations of disaster victims.
- G. ***Anticipate actions for expanded declarations.***

### **5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:**

#### **A. Individual Assistance (IA):**

**STATE CONTACT:** Shane Townsend, 434-832-8516

Individual Assistance request for the designation of additional jurisdictions:  
***(As of COB 4-15)***

A formal request for the designation of additional jurisdictions has been submitted.

The Commonwealth requested that the following jurisdictions be designated as eligible for Individual Assistance under Federal Declaration FEMA-1458-DR-VA.

Augusta, Bland, Fauquier, Frederick, Gloucester, Hanover, Henry, Lee, Loudoun, New Kent, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, and Warren Counties and the independent cities of Danville, Fairfax, and Winchester.

We are awaiting a reply.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA):  
(As of **COB 4-15**)

***DUA is now available for qualified individuals who lost work due to severe storms and flooding in the following jurisdictions: Buchanan, Dickenson, Montgomery, Russell, Tazewell, and Wise counties, and the cities of Norton, Roanoke and Salem. The deadline for applying for unemployment assistance is May 15.***

***We have submitted a second request for DUA for any jurisdictions that are additionally designated for Federal Declaration FEMA-1458-DR-VA . We are awaiting a reply.***

Tele-registrations:  
(As of **COB 4-15**)

Tele-Registrations			
Designated Jurisdictions		Undesignated Jurisdictions	
Buchanan Co.	<b>321</b>	Amherst Co.	1
Dickenson Co.	<b>117</b>	Arlington Co.	1
Montgomery Co.	32	Augusta Co.	1
Russell Co.	<b>24</b>	Bedford Co.	1
Tazewell Co.	<b>26</b>	Botetourt Co.	2
Wise Co.	<b>114</b>	Campbell Co.	1
Norton City	<b>15</b>	Franklin City	2
		Halifax Co.	1
Roanoke City	83	Henry Co.	1
		Lee Co.	1
		Pittsylvania	1
Salem City	<b>101</b>	Prince William	1
		Pulaski Co.	1
		Roanoke Co.	24
Total	<b>833</b>	Total	39

Inspection Services:  
(As of **COB 4-15**)

FEMA contracted Housing Inspectors are dispatched to the damage address to assess damages for eligible registrations.

Inspections Issued, to date	<b>626</b>
Inspections Returned to FEMA	<b>606</b>
Inspections Outstanding	<b>29</b>
Inspectors in the Field	<b>7</b>
Turnaround Time	<b>1.03</b>

Individuals and Households Program (IHP) Overview:  
(As of COB 4-14)

IHP is the premier federal grant program for Individual Assistance administered by FEMA and the Commonwealth. It is comprised of two components: Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance as listed below. The maximum grant that can be awarded is \$25,000.00 shared between the programs two components on a first come first served basis.

Eligibility Rate	70%
Registrations Referred	675
Registrations Approved	413
Registrations Ineligible	163
Registrations Withdrawn	17
<u>Registrations Pending</u>	<u>82</u>
Payments Approved	\$592,653.00
Payments Disbursed	\$586,786.00

Housing Assistance (HA): 100% Federal funded grants

A \$5,000.00 limit exists on grants for “housing repairs”.

Eligibility Rate	70%
Referrals	675
Approved	413
Ineligible	163
Withdrawn	17
<u>Pending HA Categories</u>	<u>82</u>
Amount Approved	\$592,653.00
Amount Disbursed	\$586,786.00

Other Needs Assistance (ONA): (75% Federal and 25% State funded Grants) Processing of referred applications to Other Needs Assistance must await the allocation of the estimated state share of funding. Some ONA grant categories are SBA Ineligible Dependent.

Eligibility Rate	0%
Referrals	290
Approved	0
Ineligible	100
Withdrawn	3
<u>Pending ONA Categories</u>	<u>187</u>
Amount Approved	\$0.00
Amount Disapproved	\$0.00

Small Business Administration: 100% Federal funded low interest loans  
(As of **COB 4-15**)

Home Applications Issued	<b>296</b>
Business Applications Issued	<b>25</b>
Total Applications Issued	<b>321</b>
Total Applications Returned	<b>53</b>
Total Applications Approved	<b>10</b>
<u>Total Applications Pending</u>	<u><b>32</b></u>
Total Amount Approved	<b>\$143,400.00</b>

The SBA application return rate is at approximately **17%**.

#### Sanctioned Communities:

Sanctioned communities are areas that are not enforcing flood plain management ordinances set forth by FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program, meaning community residents cannot purchase flood insurance.

Dwellings located in a sanctioned community and in a 100-year flood plain or a high hazard area such as a riverfront generally may not be considered for:

- Housing Assistance (IHP)
- Other Needs Assistance (IHP)
- SBA Assistance with home repair or personal property losses that are covered by the National Flood Insurance Program.

Dwellings located in a sanctioned community and in a 100-year flood plain or high hazard area such as a riverfront generally may be considered for:

- FEMA Rental Assistance where damages make the dwelling unlivable.
- FEMA Home Repair funds for flood losses not covered by NFIP where those repairs will make the home livable.
- ONA or SBA assistance with home repair or personal property losses that are not covered by NFIP
- ONA assistance for Medical, Dental, Funeral and “Other” expenses/losses.

Dwellings located in a sanctioned community but not in a 100-year flood plain or a high hazard area such as a riverfront may be considered for assistance without regard to the sanctioned status.

Disaster Related Deaths Reported:  
(As of **COB 4-15**)

Jurisdictions		Initial Reports		Validated Reports	
		No. of Fatalities	Source	No. of Fatalities	Source
1	Augusta Co.	1	News	1	EM Coord
2	Fauquier Co.	1	EM Coordinator	1	Cmty Relations
3	Frederick Co.	1	Times Dispatch	1	EM Coord
4	Gloucester Co.	1	Daily Press	1	EM Coord
5	Hanover Co.	1	VDEM PA	Pending	
6	Loudoun Co.	1	Times Dispatch	3	EM Coord
7	Montgomery Co.	1	Times Dispatch	1	EM Coord
8	New Kent Co.	1	Times Dispatch	1	Cmty Relations
9	Pulaski Co.	1	VDEM PA	1	*EM Coord
10	Roanoke Co.	1	Local SitRep	1	EM Coord
11	Shenandoah Co.	1	Washington Post	2	EM Coord
12	Spotsylvania Co.	1	EM Coord	1	EM Coord
13	Warren Co.	2	EM Coord/News	2	EM Coord

\* Ineligible – Foreign Diplomatic Status

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC):

The Virginia Department of Social Services has agreed to supply state DRC Managers for the following DRCs:

Reception Report

DRCs	Salem City	Buchanan Co	Wise Co	Dickenson
Apr 5	4	-		Opens Apr 21
Apr 6	9	-	-	-
Apr 7	14	-	-	-
Apr 8	13	17	-	-
Apr 9	16	14	-	-
Apr 10	13	5	-	-
April 11	12	16	-	-
April 12	6	8	-	-
April 14	10	16	5	-
<b>April 15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>

As of Thursday April 17, the hours of operation for all DRCs will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A DRC opened on April 5 at the Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Forestry, 210 Riverland Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153 Phone: (540) 387-5461 Fax: (540) 387-5462. Service hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

A DRC opened on April 8 at the Buchanan County Courthouse, Main Street, Grundy, Virginia 24614  
Phone: (276) 935-6567. Service hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

A DRC to serve Wise County was opened on Monday, April 14, at 5701 Industrial Park Road in the town of Wise. This facility has been used in previous disasters as the Disaster Field Office. Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

A DRC to serve Dickenson County is scheduled to open on Monday, April 21, at a fire station in the town of Clintwood. County officials have confirmed availability of the Clintwood Fire Department building on Volunteer Avenue from April 21 through 26 and from April 28 through May 2. Telephone installation is scheduled for April 18. Hours of operation will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

We are coordinating with the Internal Revenue Service office in Richmond to get Disaster Tax Kits to the DRCs for distribution. ***IRS Disaster Tax Kits for individuals and businesses have been ordered from the distribution center. We expect to receive them by COB Monday 21 April.***

***There were a series of meetings today to discuss projected DRC closings. No closings are scheduled at this time. DRC numbers will be under constant review to determine future DRC closings.***

**B. Public Assistance (PA):**

**STATE CONTACT:** Robert Anderson, 434-832-8506

- Requesting declaration add-on for snow emergency work only for the following jurisdictions: Prince William County, Shenandoah County, Warren County, City of Manassas, and City of Manassas Park
- Received one Request for Public Assistance from a potential applicant, Marymount College of Virginia – PNP – reviewing their eligibility.
- Requesting declaration add-on for flooding for 17 additional jurisdictions in addition to the five listed above for snow.
- Scheduling additional Kick-Off meetings for eligible snow jurisdictions.

Thursday, April 17, 2003 – Herndon – 10:00 am  
Falls Church – 1:00 pm

Tuesday, April 22, 2003 – VDOT (Richmond) – 11:00 pm  
Wednesday, April 23, 2003 – Arlington – 11:00 am

**C. Community Relations (CR):**

**STATE CONTACT:** Danny Hall, 434-832-8507

- FEMA/State teams have been deployed to the declared localities and briefed on Community Relations activities for the field.
- Field Officers are distributing the FEMA telephone registration 1-800-621-FEMA.
- Field Officers are distributing the FEMA DRC location flyer in the Roanoke Valley and the Buchanan County/Grundy area.

- Field Officers are continuing to assess the unmet needs/ special needs in their assigned jurisdictions.
- Community Relations is validating reported fatalities during the declared disaster event. Upon receipt of the counties' designation, Field Officers will meet with the victims' families.

**D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):**

**STATE CONTACT:** *David Corzilius*, 434-832-8475

- Agenda for April 17 meeting with Roanoke County, and Cities of Roanoke and Salem and Town of Vinton is completed.
- Continuing to edit the Public Assistance Environmental Consideration Document for FEMA-1458-DR-VA. *This document should be completed by Friday, April 18.*
- Developed an outline for a scoping meeting to establish an environmental/historic resources coordinating agency.
- A floodplain management workshop for local officials, consultants, and others will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2003, at the Eastern Mennonite Retirement Center in Harrisonburg, VA. The Central Shenandoah Project Impact, the VA Association of Floodplain Managers, and the Department of Conservation & Recreation will sponsor the workshop. The point of contact for registration information is Jackie Miller at 804-786-0237.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is conducting Damage Survey Reports during visits in Wise, Russell, and Buchanan Counties as part of their Emergency Watershed Program. Mitigation has requested to be updated on the number of counties, the number of sites, and estimated costs of the EWP work.
- Members of HM staff will attend a meeting with Congressman Boucher at his office in Abingdon on April 24, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the Hurley HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) Project. Representatives from FEMA, HUD, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Cumberland Plateau Planning District, and Buchanan County are also invited to attend.
- Locations and schedules for the HMGP Pre-Application briefings are to be reviewed based upon the completion of the Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs). Tentative schedule is the week of April 28.
- *A draft of frequently asked questions (FAQ) list is being developed jointly by Public Affairs and Hazard Mitigation to address general public inquiries about hazard mitigation and related issues. Suggestions for questions to include and address on this list should be sent to Bob Lambert or David Corzilius.*

**E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):**

**STATE CONTACT:** Bob Lambert, 434-832-8449

- Continued work on the production of a comprehensive news-media contact list, including compiling e-mail addresses of statewide media contacts.
- Field PIOs continued to contact news media in the declared area; distributed news releases and provided information on the recovery effort, emphasizing the amount of



housing assistance provided to date and the Disaster Recovery Centers in Salem, Grundy and Wise.

- The two key messages are: Call to register for assistance – do not determine your own eligibility - visit the Disaster Recovery Center, and Disaster Assistance does not affect other government programs.
- Drafted a news release on localities added to the declaration, and will disseminate once the additional jurisdictions are confirmed.
- Issued a news release on the April 21 opening of the Clintwood Disaster Recovery Center.
- Distributed a flyer about the days and times of operation for the Clintwood Disaster Recovery Center.
- Issued a news release about the adjusted hours of operation for the Disaster Recovery Centers.
- Conducted preliminary research for mitigation success stories based on April 17 meeting in Vinton.
- *Unemployment Assistance news release was sent out on April 15.*
- *Staff prepared disaster-area photos for display.*

**F. Legislative Liaison:**

**STATE CONTACT:** Marge Atkins, 434-832-8486

- Reviewed distribution list to determine necessity for adding state elected officials *if/when add-on jurisdictions are approved.*
- *Prepared weekly information for distribution to state elected officials.*

**G. Information and Planning:**

**STATE CONTACT:** Judy Hurley, 434-832-8538

- Continuing to refine the Situation Report input and distribution procedures.

**H. Deputy State Coordinating Officer:**

**STATE CONTACT:** Mary Camp, 434-832-8505

- Actions to review damage assessments have been completed in several jurisdictions and designations of eligibility for federal assistance should be known in the next few days.

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**Michael M. Cline, SCO**